

Seniors find ways to celebrate graduation despite COVID-19

By EMMA BENSON

Caps and gowns, commencement speakers, pictures with friends — all are hallmarks of a traditional college graduation ceremony. But this year is drastically different.

COVID-19 forced BYU's graduating seniors to conclude their college experience online and disrupted their once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to formally celebrate their graduation.

Various colleges and schools across campus adapted to the cancellations by holding their own virtual convocation ceremonies on their websites. The College of Family, Home and Social Sciences created a virtual convocation page for graduates of its programs. The website highlights graduating seniors and their accomplishments. It also features profiles of the valedictorians and includes virtual convocation and valedictorian speeches.

The College of Fine Arts and Communications created a "Share Your Story: #CFACGrad" campaign to allow graduating seniors to submit essays, memories, videos and photos of their experiences at BYU, which are then shared online.

Each program in the Marriott School of Business held a virtual celebration on April 23 or 24. The College of Life Sciences uploaded virtual messages from the dean, faculty and select students to congratulate the college's graduates. The website also allowed students to upload their graduation photos or other photos or videos of their BYU memories.

The website of the College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences included a downloadable graduation program and video talks from the dean, a faculty member and valedictorians. The college also offered free diploma covers and commemorative pins.

BYU shared a video message from President Kevin J. Worthen on April 23, congratulating the Class of 2020 on its graduation day "unlike any other in BYU history."

"As we look to the future, I'm confident that the class of 2020 will distinguish itself in many ways — that you won't be the class that was defeated by a worldwide pandemic, but that you will face the future with clarity, optimism and renewed resolve," President Worthen says in the video.



Karmen Kodia

BYU broadcast journalism senior Karmen Kodia holds her diploma while wearing a cap and gown. Students are finding creative ways to celebrate their graduation amid the pandemic.

Despite the cancellation of an official graduation ceremony, seniors are still finding ways to celebrate the monumental occasion.

BYU broadcast journalism senior Karmen Kodia's family lives out of the country, so they celebrated her graduation digitally.

"My family is in Sweden and weren't able to come so we had a virtual celebration," she said. "I'm also having a dance party with my roommates to celebrate!"

Art education graduate Lauren Cressman said she was sad to miss out on celebrating graduation with her friends.

"I think that was something that I was probably most excited about was going to be able to walk with them at commencement and kind of share that celebration, and now all of them have moved back to different states so we can't even do anything if we wanted to," she said.

Though she's not with friends, Cressman and her family held their own mock graduation. They gathered at a park to have a "social distancing picnic," including takeout from their favorite restaurants.

Cressman's father and father-in-law,

both BYU professors, dressed in their academic regalia to present a diploma cover to Cressman and her sister-in-law, who is graduating in nursing from UVU.

BYU economics senior Natalie Winkel had bought a ticket to go to Europe on April 26, three days after graduation.

"I was going to graduate and pack up all my stuff and go to Europe for a couple of weeks," she said.

Those plans are now on hold.

"It's definitely a bummer; I feel like there's not that closure of these four years that you worked really hard, and you get to celebrate it with all of your family and your friends," she said.

But Winkel said she's "still been able to celebrate." Her family held a small graduation party for Winkel and her brother, who is finishing up his final semester of law school at the University of Idaho.

"We had our own little graduation party where we had cake and decorations and all of those things," she said.

Devin Ostler, a public health senior from Salt Lake City, said her plans to celebrate will be more "low-key."

"Probably we'll just do something at

home. Sure, it'll be fun, but definitely more low-key with takeout or a home-cooked meal. Nothing fancy," she said.

Like many others, Ostler expressed disappointment at not having the opportunity to celebrate in person with friends at an official ceremony.

"I was just excited to celebrate with friends and people in my program ... to be able to celebrate all of our hard work and everything all together," she said. "Instead, none of us are together and we're celebrating in different ways, which is good, but you don't have that 'we did this together' sort of mentality anymore."

But she's not walking away empty-handed — she still has a degree, a free windbreaker from the College of Life Sciences and her love of BYU.

"I loved all the people I met and the teachers. And I loved that in my department, I felt like it was like friends working together — the professors were on your side. I became really good friends with them," she said. "There's just a big sort of camaraderie — we're all working together. I love that I was able to do that at BYU."

Spring enrollment up as missionaries return due to pandemic

By LISI MERKLEY

BYU's Spring Term enrollment has increased as missionaries return home during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints began sending missionaries from the United States and Canada home from their international assignments during the last weeks of March and the beginning of April. Some of these missionaries have decided to enroll in Spring Term classes during the interim period before they are allowed to return to full missionary service.

Last year's Spring Term had 10,438 enrolled students, and as of Wednesday, April 15, there were 12,101 students enrolled in at least one credit for Spring Term. The numbers for this Spring Term's enrollment are subject to change as students adjust their plans over the next couple of weeks. University Communications didn't have any specific data to indicate that the increase is due to missionaries returning home because of the pandemic but attributed some of this increase to these returning missionaries.

Blair Bateman, the interim Spanish and Portuguese Department chair, said the department has seen an increase in enrollments for Spanish and Portuguese classes that are frequently taken by return missionaries. SPAN 321, third-year Spanish grammar, had 162 students enrolled with 53 on the waitlist as of April 17 at 10 a.m.

"Last year, we had a total of 93 who took the class in spring, so that's a 50-100% increase," he said, "if you count the waitlist ones or not."

The equivalent Portuguese class has also seen a similar increase. Last spring there were 16 students in PORT 321, and this year there are 44 enrolled with 10 on the waitlist. Bateman said they have opened new sections of both classes to allow more students to take the courses.

"The only explanation that I can think of is that these are people who are coming home slightly early from their missions," Bateman said.

Alex Baugh, the Church History and Doctrine Department chair, agreed with Bateman. He said the enrollment in their spring classes is up by around 300 students, and he attributed at least some of that number to the newly returned missionaries. Dana Pike, the Ancient Scripture Department chair, said his department has seen over double the number of students enrolling this spring compared to last year.

"The two reasons I have heard for this increase are the number of missionaries who came home early from their mission assignments and the fact that students can live at home and still take classes, which means it is less expensive for them, whether they are recently returned missionaries or not," Pike said.

Braden Terry served almost 10 months in the Tokyo North mission before he returned home after the coronavirus outbreak. Terry is currently enrolled in a religion class and ECON 110 for this Spring Term.

"We were told that we're coming home and we have no idea when or if we'll go back out," Terry said. "I thought, 'OK, well, I don't really have much to do because of all this COVID drama, so I guess I'll take advantage of the online BYU classes and try to get ahead in my schooling.'"

Bennett Graff was in a similar situation when he returned home from the Peru Trujillo South Mission. He is taking American Heritage through BYU Independent Study, and he is enrolled in WRTG 150 and a few other classes for Spring Term.

The search for truth from Puerto Rico to New York

IF ANY OF YOU
LACK WISDOM

Fifth in series

By KALICIA BATEMAN

PALMYRA, N.Y. — Kevin Rodriguez recalls seeing commercials for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as a child growing up in Puerto Rico. He didn't know much about the Church and its beliefs at the time, but the ads sparked something inside him. Kevin wanted to know more about the Church, but more than anything else, he wanted to find truth.

Years later, Kevin's path crossed with the Church numerous times, from meeting missionaries while playing soccer with friends to seeing videos made by the Church. However, he didn't find the truth he was looking for until he joined the military and relocated to New York.

As an officer in the U.S. Army, Kevin has many things that people are looking for in life: a good job and good friends. But even with these good things, Kevin felt a spiritual emptiness that he wanted to fill.

"I believe that you can be normal in life — you can have everything you



Karmen Kodia

Kevin Rodriguez has felt a spiritual emptiness that could only be filled by seeking God through prayer and scripture study. Scan the photo with the **Universe Plus** app to listen to or read a Spanish translation of the story.

want — but if you don't have God in your life, there's going to be an emptiness," Kevin said. "I believe that anyone who feels that emptiness can fill it with the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Kevin felt that fulfillment when he attended The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for the first time by himself. The peace and happiness he felt during the Sunday meetings was exactly what he had been seeking

for for many years.

"That day was very special to me," Kevin said. "I think about how the people treated me and how everyone welcomed me into the church, and from there I kept going until I got baptized."

As Kevin continues to learn and seek out truth — even after baptism — he relies upon prayer and the Book of Mormon. Through these sources,

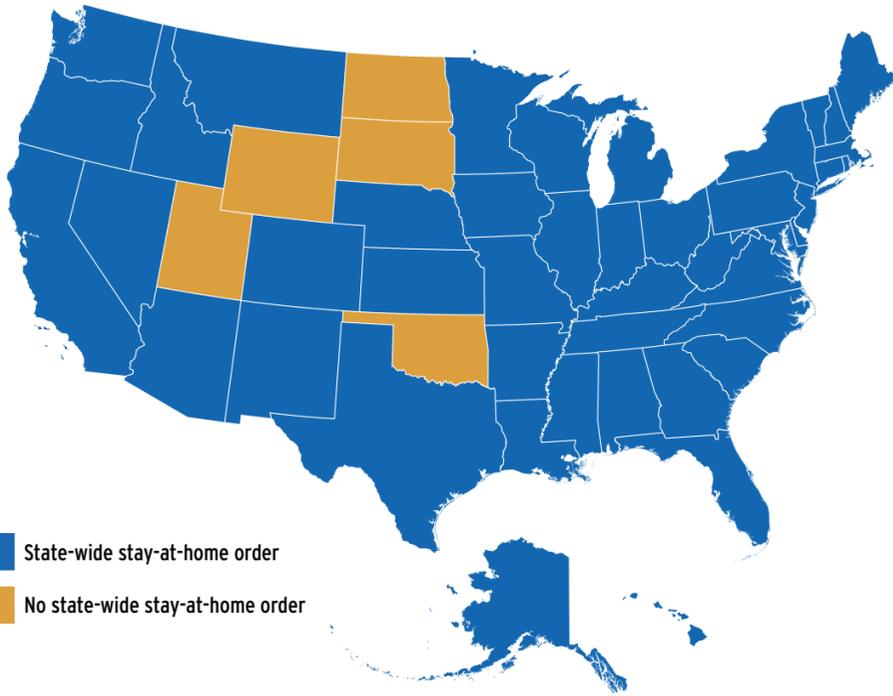
Kevin knows that he will find answers and guidance in the questions and experiences he has every day.

"I believe that we're always going to have questions, and we're always going to have doubts," he said. "But, if you keep praying and you keep reading the scriptures, you can find those answers."

Next: *Doing the work to find the answers to difficult questions*

COVID-19 OUTBREAK

Outbreak updates



Blue State-wide stay-at-home order
Orange No state-wide stay-at-home order

84% of states have issued stay-at-home or shelter-in-place orders

94% of states have seen protests to reduce pandemic restrictions

42% of states have announced formal plans to re-open

Global death toll tops 200,000 as some virus lockdowns eased

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA — As the global death toll from the coronavirus surpassed 200,000 on Saturday, countries took cautious steps toward easing lockdowns imposed amid the pandemic, but fears of a surge in infections made even some outbreak-wounded businesses reluctant to reopen.

The states of Georgia, Oklahoma and Alaska started loosening restrictions on businesses despite warnings from experts that such steps might be premature.

Shawn Gingrich, CEO and founder of Lion's Den Fitness, decided after the Georgia governor's announcement that his Atlanta gym would remain closed for now.

"We've sacrificed so much already," Gingrich said. "I feel like if we do this too soon, we'll

see a spike in cases and we're back to square one."

The worldwide death toll was over 202,000, according to a count by John Hopkins University from government figures. The actual death toll is believed to be far higher.

India reopened neighborhood stores that many of the country's 1.3 billion people rely on for everything from beverages to mobile phone data cards. But the loosening didn't apply to hundreds of quarantined towns and other places that has killed at least 775 people in the country where many poor live in slums too crowded for social distancing.

Elsewhere in Asia, authorities reported no new deaths Saturday for the 10th straight day in China, where the virus originated. South Korea reported just 10 fresh cases, the eighth day in a row its daily increase was under 20.

Ben Daniel

Nearly all states have state-wide stay-at-home or shelter-in-place orders, with most being in effect for over a month. Protests around the country have increased pressure on states to start making plans to reopen the economy.

Undefeated, high schoolers head online for isolation proms

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — In party dresses or come as you are, with colored lights flashing in their bedrooms and teachers-turned-DJs spinning, high schoolers have turned to virtual proms to salvage at least one slice of fun and tradition for the Class of 2020.

And they're getting help from familiar brands like Teen Vogue and Jack in the Box, with both serving as hosts to

thousands of teens.

Celebrities, too, are taking on prom: The "Get Out" actress Allison Williams was a guest DJ for Zoom partygoers in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and "Jack Ryan" star John Krasinski was joined by Billie Eilish when he threw a prom live on YouTube.

"It's terrible that it's happening to your class, but I hope you're having a good time anyway," Williams told about 100 teens, staff and guests April 16 at the prom hosted by the Baton Rouge Youth Coalition.

U.S. states build stockpiles of malaria drug touted by Trump

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SALT LAKE CITY — State and local governments across the United States have obtained about 30 million doses of a malaria drug touted by President Trump to treat patients with the coronavirus, despite warnings from doctors that more research is needed.

At least 22 states and Washington, D.C., secured shipments of the drug, hydroxychloroquine, according to information

compiled from state and federal officials by The Associated Press. Sixteen of those states were won by Trump in 2016, although five of them, including North Carolina and Louisiana, are now led by Democratic governors.

Supporters say having a supply on hand makes sense in case the drug proves to be effective against the pandemic that has killed nearly 200,000 people worldwide, and to ensure a steady supply for people who need it for other conditions like lupus.

NFL draft averages record 8.4M viewers across 3 days

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seth Markman was just as nervous as NFL coaches and general managers about the unknown factors involved with a virtual draft. But the ESPN executive producer said he was overwhelmed with how everything came together over the three days.

It also ended up being must-see TV as the first significant live sporting event since the coronavirus pandemic ground

everything to a halt. The draft averaged a record 8.4 million viewers over all three days, according to the NFL and Nielsen. The previous high was 6.2 million last year.

"I thought a coach or general manager might put a towel on the camera or point it another direction, but there were zero issues," Markman said. "There were a couple times that we lost a feed or two, but it quickly came back."

Each day attracted record audiences. Thursday's first round averaged 15.6 million.

Outside the outbreak



Four GOP candidates to appear on Utah ballot

Republican voters will have a fourth gubernatorial hopeful to choose from in the June primary after former state House Speaker Greg Hughes qualified for a spot on the ballot.

Conservative Hughes joins two front-runners who are considered more moderate, Lt. Gov. Spencer Cox and ex-U.S.-Russia Ambassador Jon Huntsman, Jr.



Canada mass shootings started with assault

Canada's worst mass shooting erupted from an argument between the gunman and his girlfriend, who survived the attack, police confirmed Friday, April 24.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police Supt. Darren Campbell said the weekend shooting rampage started with an assault by the suspect on his girlfriend and ended with 22 people dead in communities across central and northern Nova Scotia.



Man charged in 'Duck Dynasty' shooting

A man was arrested in connection with a drive-by shooting at the Louisiana estate of "Duck Dynasty" star Willie Robertson.

Daniel King Jr. was booked into a correctional center after two homes in West Monroe were struck by gunfire on Friday, April 24, the Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office said in a Facebook post Saturday. No one was injured in the shooting.

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Sydnee Gonzalez

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Sydnee Gonzalez
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South Korea maintains Kim Jong Un health rumors are untrue

South Korea's government has dismissed rumors that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is in fragile condition, as speculation about his health intensifies amid the North's silence on his whereabouts.

There are concerns, particularly in Seoul and Washington, about what would happen to North Korea and its nuclear program if anything actually happened to Kim. For South Korea and the U.S., Kim's absence would mean the departure of a man they've dealt with over the past two years to try to achieve North Korea's denuclearization, though talks have stalled in recent months.

Unification Minister Kim Yeon-chul told a closed-door forum in Seoul that South Korea has "enough intelligence to confidently say that there are no unusual developments" in rival North Korea that would back up speculation about Kim's health, his ministry said Monday.

The minister would not reveal at Sunday's forum what specific intelligence led to that conclusion.



Utah OKs holding primary by mail

Utah lawmakers voted to run an upcoming primary election in June entirely by mail and to temporarily do away with traditional polling places.

Most of conservative Utah already votes by mail, in contrast with the by-mail voting skepticism from national Republicans like President Donald Trump.

The bill would automatically repeal on Aug. 1, so in-person voting can return for the general election in November.

2020 US Census adapts to COVID-19

By LAUREN LETHBRIDGE

The year 2020 welcomed not only a new decade but also another census. The U.S. Census has taken place since 1790 and seeks to provide an accurate count of every person living in the U.S. and its territories. On Tuesday, April 14, the U.S. Census Bureau announced it is suspending field operations until June 2020 in response to COVID-19.

The census provides data every ten years that guides the spending of hundreds of billions of dollars in the private and public sector as well as thousands of jobs, according to Coralys Ruiz Jiménez, a media specialist for the U.S. Census Bureau.

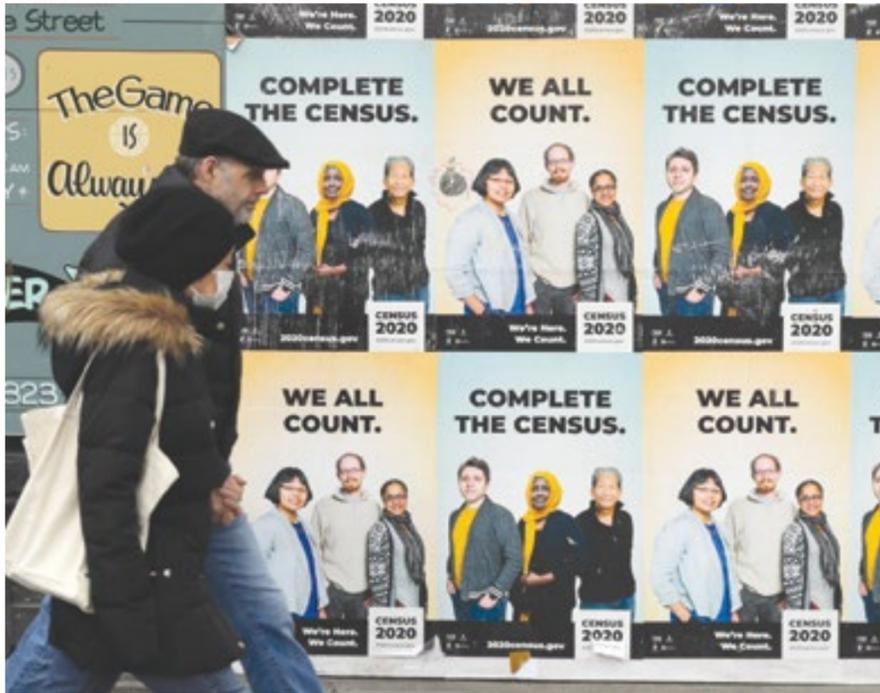
These jobs include duties like interacting with the public, processing activities, office work and emuneration.

Field operations include door-to-door interviews with household residents who have yet to fill out the census as well as employee recruitment and meetings with media, community and employment representatives.

The announcement said these suspensions aim to protect the public and Census Bureau employees, ensure a complete and accurate collection of data and follow guidance from government authorities.

"Steps are already being taken to reactivate field offices beginning June 1, 2020, in preparation for the resumption of field data collection operations as quickly as possible following June 1," said Ruiz Jiménez.

Despite COVID-19 restrictions, data is still being



Associated Press

People walk past posters encouraging participation in the 2020 Census in Seattle's Capitol Hill neighborhood.

collected through self-responses via phone, email and an online form. This phase is expected to conclude on October 31 instead of July 31.

Following the newly revised schedule, the Census Bureau plans to deliver the population total of each state to the president by April 30, 2021. These numbers determine the number of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. The president has 14 days to deliver the counts to Congress then the Bureau will deliver the counts to each state by July 31, 2021, according to the Census 2020 website.

"In order to ensure the completeness and accuracy of the 2020 Census, the Census Bureau is seeking statutory relief from Congress of 120 additional calendar days to deliver final apportionment counts," said Ruiz Jiménez.

About 51% of U.S. households have responded to the census as of April 20. Utah has the second-highest cumulative self-response rate at 56.2%; about 4% behind Minnesota, according to data found on the census website.

Utah County ranks fourth in response rates for Utah at 62.1%. Residents are still

encouraged to respond by phone or online. Households that didn't respond by April 8 have been sent a paper questionnaire by mail.

Ruiz Jiménez said it is difficult to identify the effects COVID-19 has on census responses. Since this is the first time the Census Bureau has offered an online answering method, so it is unable to accurately compare response data to previous censuses.

"It has never been easier to respond to the census on your own," said Ruiz Jiménez. "The most important thing you can do is to respond."

Mediations on the rise as students try to get out of rental contracts

By JENNY GOLDSBERRY

More students are mediating their rental agreements with landlords since the COVID-19 pandemic caused BYU to switch to online classes and encourage students to return home.

Many students have returned home but find themselves still obligated to pay the rent for their off-campus housing.

BYU's Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution anticipated a rise in mediations last month and issued a statement to set expectations for students.

"Because of the possibly large number of COVID-19 housing cases, we expect that the dispute resolution process may take several months to work through the full caseload," reads the Mediation Prep guide on the center's website.

CPCR Assistant Director Emily de Schweinitz Taylor said their predictions were right. "We have received approximately 170 requests since the third week of March," Taylor said. "We have received six arbitration requests regarding COVID-19 housing cases."

All COVID-19 housing cases will begin in a teleconference mediation session via Zoom, according to the center's website. There are a total of 14 mediators tasked with handling the off-campus housing mediation sessions, and each session is meant to be under 90 minutes.

"Each week, we are holding 20-25 mediations," Taylor said.

The BYU CPCR does not have the power to release students from their contracts. Their website states, "The university recognizes the housing

contracts between student tenants and landlords as legally binding contracts, and that the university does not have the authority to mandate students be released from legally binding contracts."

Maddie Rands, a junior studying studio art and education, is one of those students. She recently requested mediation. She lived at Liberty Square, and is now looking to get out of her rental contract.

After filling out a request for mediation, she received a call from Taylor, who told her that there are over 80 open cases waiting to be mediated.

"We have received approximately 170 requests since the third week of March."

Emily de Schweinitz Taylor
CPCR Assistant Director

Rands is hopeful. "I had a pretty good case," she said.

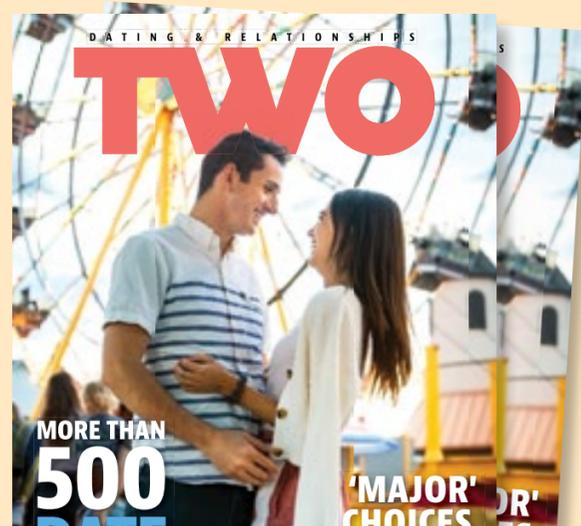
According to Tim Metler of Legend Real Estate, the company already has a standard procedure when it comes to mediating an issue between a tenant and a landlord. Last week will be the first week that his company attended a mediation session due to COVID-19. While he does expect to see an uptick in mediation, he said his company is prepared to settle disputes.

"I think we've been pretty successful working that through with the individual owners and tenants," Metler said, speaking of previous sessions not related to the pandemic. "We're feeling pretty good on our end."

QUARANTINE GOT YOU FEELING CRABBY?



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Rick Bowman/AP

A man sits near a sidewalk in Salt Lake City. The city has confirmed a handful of COVID-19 cases in the homeless community, where preventive steps such as hand-washing and social distancing are more difficult.

Homeless housing and services altered because of COVID-19

By JENNY GOLDSBERRY

Homeless shelters and services in Utah are still open with some operational changes in light of COVID-19.

On April 13, Salt Lake County Mayor Jenny Wilson announced that those who are at high risk for contracting COVID-19 within the homeless community would be transferred to a hotel. Utah policymakers decided to close a winter overflow shelter in Sugar House on Wednesday, April 15, but this is the typical timeline for winter shelters to close.

"The county is leasing an entire hotel to provide 'Stay Home, Stay Safe' housing for roughly 130 asymptomatic clients," says the statement from the mayor's office. "These individuals are either over the age of 60 or have underlying health issues."

The statement did not name the hotel but did say that the lease agreement was for two weeks. An option to extend is written into the agreement.

Other homeless service providers are also working to deal with the social distancing guidelines necessary to

protect clients.

In 2019, the Center for Disease Control published some guidelines for homeless service providers. It outlined what homeless shelters could do to prepare before, during and after a possible virus outbreak. Since the COVID-19 outbreak has officially spread to the United States, some updates have been added.

Michelle Flynn, executive director of The Road Home, said they're doing their best to follow the CDC's Interim Guidance for Homeless Service Providers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease.

"We have separated seating to increase distance between people, removed chairs from the dining rooms and staggered and extended mealtimes as needed," Flynn said.

She said they are separating individuals into private studio apartments and putting families in motels to comply with social distancing guidelines. "Though much of our sleeping areas are dorms with bunk beds, we are doing as much as possible to increase distance by alternating head-to-toe and toe-to-toe sleeping," she said. The shelter is not allowing visitors.

Officials at The Road Home have also begun to closely

examine everyone living in the Men's Resource Center in South Salt Lake and the Midvale Family Resource Center for symptoms of COVID-19 and to provide tests when needed.

According to Chloe Morroni, the communications director for Salt Lake County, this was accomplished with the combined efforts of partners including the Men's Resource Center and The Road Home, along with medical team support from the state of Utah, Salt Lake County Health Department and Medical Reserve Corps, Fourth Street Clinic, the University of Utah Wellness Bus and Intermountain Healthcare.

After one client at the Men's Resource Center tested positive for COVID-19, Director of Development Kat Khan said they are not accepting new clients. Since then, The Men's Resource Center found that a total of 94 of its clients have tested positive as of Friday, April 17. Salt Lake County Programs and Partnerships Director Katherine Fife said that the center "essentially became its own quarantine."

Khan has also seen changes in The Midvale Family Center. "For The Midvale Family Center, our numbers have been much lower than average for

the last month," Kahn said.

Sue Ativalu, the division director of adult homeless services for Volunteers of America Utah, oversees the Geraldine E. King Women's Resource Center, the Center for Women and Children in Murray, the Homeless Outreach team and other programs for those in need. Her women's resource center actually saw an increase in women coming in. She said it's hard to say if an increase of clientele is due to the pandemic.

"It's hard to tell because we're just on the tail end of winter and that's usually when we see numbers increase anyways," Ativalu said.

The coronavirus task force headed by Utah Lt. Gov. Spencer Cox is ensuring that the homeless community receives tests for all the Utah shelters.

Pamela Atkinson, a community advocate with the Salt Lake Valley Coalition to End Homelessness, said, "They have plans to do further testing across Utah."

Ativalu says that the general sentiment of her homeless clients mirrors the public's people are concerned and worried about their safety. "There's a lot of questions," she said. "We have done multiple community

meetings and town halls." These informational meetings help keep their clients up to date on current news and changes in operation.

Atkinson said she's been fielding calls from homeless clients. "They repeatedly say how incredible the staff had been in protecting them," Atkinson said.

To contain the potential spread of disease, Catholic Community Services canceled all non-basic needs services. According to its website, "All basic needs services such as food, water and shelter will continue. Our Saint Vincent de Paul Dining Hall, Weigand Homeless Resource Center, Gail Miller Resource Center and Joyce Hansen Hall Food Pantry will all remain open and operational with minimum staff and limited services."

South Valley Services is also semi-operational, according to its website which says it has "implemented some temporary agency changes that will enable staff to continue to provide the services of shelter, therapy and case management to care for our existing and new clients." While South Valley Services is not offering tours, its "shelter and hotline are open and taking calls and clients."

Similarly, the Food and Care Coalition in Provo is still accepting applications for transitional housing but only over the phone. It is also providing shower and laundry services by appointment. Meals provided for those in need are made in to-go containers. The coalition made it clear on its website that "congregating and loitering on coalition or neighboring properties is prohibited."

Provo's Community Action Services and Food Bank has a team ready to help those in need of emergency housing assistance. Its website assures that "caseworkers are available to meet with clients over the phone or via email to walk them through options and eligibility."

When it comes to community awareness, Ativalu says the general public would better understand if they were proximate to the situation. "If they are not really touched by that population, it's tough to understand what the challenges might be," she said. For example, everyone is dealing with the closing of public buildings, but families experiencing homelessness, who regularly visited places like public libraries, are having to cope with having nowhere else to go.

Members adapt to stay-at-home church, fulfilling callings remotely

By EMMA BENSON

Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have been trying to adapt to church at home and fulfill their callings remotely as religious services around the world have been disrupted due to COVID-19.

"We get a lot of emails from local leaders with announcements and encouragement during this time of separation," said Felicia Preston, a member of the Church in Yuma, Arizona.

Many Church leaders at ward and stake levels have been creating video messages for their congregations or hosting Zoom leadership meetings. Others actively participate in ward Facebook groups to continue connecting with ward members.

Despite the physical separation from their ward, Preston and her family have been making the most of their circumstances when it comes to church. On Sundays, she and her husband participate in an at-home church service with her parents, which includes prayers, hymns, talks and the sacrament.

"Our bishop's conditions for us blessing the sacrament in our own home are that we follow the same kind of agenda used during normal church," she said. "The sacrament is blessed and passed, and we have a short talk by someone. We also take a moment to discuss any emails sent by local or church leaders so that everyone is up to date on Church news."

Preston said they also take time to study and discuss the "Come, Follow Me" lesson,



Courtney Porritt

Courtney Porritt, a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Vineyard, Utah, reads the scriptures with her children during their at-home church service on Sunday, April 19.

which has helped them "bond over the gospel."

"It has really helped us to not only block out more time for spiritual learning, but it also helps us have meaningful discussions," she said. "It gets us engaging with the material and each other."

Lanae Lewis, a church member in Murray, Utah, said though there are difficulties, she's seen the blessings of not having church be "normal."

"It really helps people realize what priorities are," she said. "That has been a blessing in our home. We can make Sundays be different because we want them to be different — no one's making us do this, but it's something that we are choosing to do."

Lewis is the Primary music leader for her ward. When the COVID-19 pandemic occurred

and forced churches to close their doors, she decided to make a video to teach the Primary children the rest of a song they had been learning.

"I wanted them to learn it before General Conference," she said, adding that the title of the song was "My Own Sacred Grove."

"So I just put together a video and taught them the rest of the song and posted it," she said. "It was fun to see people's responses, especially the moms, who were like, 'My daughter really loved seeing you today.'"

The last week she was with the Primary, Lewis had asked the kids to come prepared the next week to share where their own personal "Sacred Grove" was, so she included the question in her video to allow the kids and parents to still participate.

Though the future is unsure, like when the Primary program will be held, Lewis said she is still encouraging the parents of the primary children to help them practice the songs they've learned.

Courtney Porritt, the Young Women president of her ward in Vineyard, Utah, said she's also been trying to fulfill her calling digitally.

Porritt and her presidency have been doing virtual activities, like games and scavenger hunts, with the young women via Zoom. They also dropped off packets to each of the girls' houses for General Conference and Easter, which including coloring pages that the girls could take pictures of and share with the group.

"So we're still interacting, even if we can't see each other,"

she said.

Porritt said that since her presidency is new, getting to know the girls virtually "has been difficult, but she added that they realized that they could still fulfill their top priority."

"Really what it came down to was we need to make sure that (the young women) know that we love them and that we're there," she said. "That is a big thing for us."

Porritt noted that her presidency has seen strides in getting responses from the young women, and getting to know their parents. "We're still reaching out, and we're still getting responses from people now, whereas I felt like we didn't beforehand. That's been a huge blessing for us because we are getting to know the parents as well as the kids."

Utah state parks reopen

By KENZIE HOLBROOK

All 44 of Utah's state parks are now open, but health orders in certain counties might restrict people who aren't county residents.

The announcement was made April 23 by the Utah COVID-19 Community Task Force via Twitter.

State parks that are limited to county residents are Dead Horse Point, Echo, Historic Union Pacific Rail Trail and Rockport.

Although the state parks are now open, people are still expected to practice responsible recreation by following social distancing guidelines while at the park and to stay home if they are feeling sick.

According to the Utah State Parks website, people should give others at least six feet of separation while on trails and avoid congregating at trailheads and other common areas, as well as avoiding crowds of any kind.

"Social distancing from others is a key part of fighting the COVID-19 virus," the website reads. "Give one another room on trails, golf courses, fishing docks, overlooks and other areas."

While all parks are open, six of the parks visitor centers are closed — Antelope Island, Dead Horse Point, Goblin Valley, Great Salt Lake, Utah Lake and Wasatch Mountain.



Bennett Chattanooga Times Free Press



me eating my \$7 sandwich that cost me \$45 on Uber eats



With everybody in quarantine, wild traffic cones have come back to Utah streets. Nature is healing. We are the virus.



My profile pic VS me on video call



when someone you know is opening their mission call



Tweet Beat

#BYU #BYUprobs

Want to see your tweet in print? Tweet something about life around you with #BYUprobs or #BYU and hopefully it makes the cut.

Leave comments at universe.byu.edu or @UniverseBYU

@kat_richards

about to start part 3 of this FOUR PART physical science exam. In my last semester of college, because freshman me said "I can do it later!" I do hate her a little bit.

@pokemaughan

Me: I'm going to wake up early and get this done
Narrator Voice: She did not wake up early and get it done

@kylecoug

flashback to my first semester of college where I got A's in all of my classes but almost failed my introductory to organ class

@sieharmonizes

you waited for a missionary to come home so you could date him

i waited for a missionary to come home so i could keep favoriting his tweets but never actually talk to him

we're not the same

@thecoltonshock

Proctorio is the fourth unforgivable curse.

@trisweb

So, lemme just share my screen... one second.
OK can everyone see my screen?

@BlessedPloqueer

I could never be a proper Utahn even if I moved and lived there the rest of my days because committing to having professional family pictures, couples pictures AND pictures of just myself in either a canyon or in front of sandstone AT LEAST every six months would just exhaust me.

@disneycaroline

once this quarantine ends i swear i'm going to the gym everyday and getting biceps this is MY YEAR

@NathanConder

Introducing a new contactless delivery method where the driver speeds past your house and just hurls a burrito through your window:
Uber Yeets

@alissaholm

You know your Zoom class is too long when your fully charged AirPods die before the class ends.

@sammy_smiless

My defining moment of college was probably when I failed my American Heritage final because I got mono but my TA bumped it up to a C because he thought it was funny that I misunderstood the assignment and wrote my paper on Stan Lee instead of Utah senator Mike Lee

@carolynmaeee

i got in the car with my 12yo sister who asked if she could 'bump some jams' and the first thing she played was the glee cast version of Imagine

@madelynowl

Teachers love to say that an open-book exam is "not open-person"

@jennalinds

Only since quarantine have I learned that everyone else really is getting their hair trimmed every 6 weeks and it's only me leaving the salon like LOOLL see you in 9 months booo

@RosemaryCard

I just realized that I literally have nothing scheduled for the rest of my life. All events I was planning to attend have been canceled. Neat.

@emmapearlw

kid with last name at beginning of the alphabet privilege is REAL and we need to talk about it

@hankrsmith

Tacos fall apart
Burritos fall apart
Burgers fall apart
Cake falls apart
Klondike bars fall apart
Apparently, it's okay to fall apart sometimes. You'll always be loved.

Tweets are unedited.

READERS' FORUM

Benefits of classical music

Music is a huge part of our culture and is a major defining factor of our identity. Since music is so vital to our culture, we should evaluate the type of music we listen to and its influence on our lives physically, mentally and emotionally.

Studies have shown that listening to classical music at the gym, while studying or just to pass time immensely benefits our well-being as humans. While it may be hard to ditch the music we feel comfortable with, it will help us in the long run. Although classical music is often slow and not ideal for the gym, it improves overall gym performance.

Studying to classical music is majorly conducive to retention of knowledge for tests and just being productive. Due to enhanced emotional receptiveness caused by classical music, our brains can obtain more information while studying, helping us with our performance in the classroom.

Listening to classical music can improve almost any aspect in our lives and although it may feel weird to make the switch, the benefits are limitless. Cortisol levels have been proven to rise, depressive tendencies can more easily be fought, creativity can be heightened and so on. Researchers have also come up with "The Mozart Effect," where even the productivity of your brain is improved through "spatial-temporal reasoning." Overall, listening to classical music has been proven to be very beneficial for you in everyday life.

—Talley Larsen
Cheney, Washington

Utah soda craze

As you drive along your typical route to work on a Monday morning, you may notice the never-ending line at the Starbucks drive-thru, at least if you live in any state other than Utah.

Instead, in the Beehive State, you may notice the absence of a line at the few Starbucks locations and instead find an infinite line around a local Swig, Fiiz, Sodalicious or another soda-centered shop.

For years, many members of the church, including myself, have turned to the likes of carbonated caffeine to fill their theoretical energy tanks occasionally or even each morning because of the advisement from modern-day prophets against consuming coffee and caffeinated tea but not Diet Coke.

What many don't realize is that the average cup

of coffee includes 95 mg of caffeine while 44 ounces of Diet Coke has 154 mg of caffeine. Maybe in the recent excitement about "dirty" sodas, we've forgotten that following the Word of Wisdom is ultimately supposed to lead to a healthier lifestyle, not one filled with more caffeine, sugar and chemical sugar substitutes.

Decisions on whether soda is against the Word of Wisdom or whether it should hold a prominent place in your diet is a personal matter, but you should take time to consider whether your constant consumption of daily 44 ounce Dirty Diet Cokes may actually be doing your body dirty with the overload on sugar and caffeine.

—Joey Fielding
Orem, Utah

The power of the plant

The power of the plant has been overlooked for too long. The benefits of nature have been circulating our society for centuries; however, nature's place and value as a health and cognitive promotion tool have been lost. Incorporating nature with our severely urbanized society will stimulate positive thinking, thereby leading to success.

As college students, we are confined indoors for most of the day, which separates us almost entirely from nature. Many students struggle with unhealthy levels of anxiety and stress as well as with keeping focus throughout their day when in class or when studying. However, these barriers to effective learning can be minimized by creating an ideal learning environment that employs nature as a restorative element to the mind.

The visual stimulus of foliage indoors serves as a psychological stimulus, reminding us of the tranquil and freshening relief that is present in the natural environment. College students in this type of environment would be able to not only increase their ability to focus but also their capacity to perform better in school.

By incorporating plants into the indoors, whether it be classrooms, offices, study rooms, dorms or even bathrooms, the benefits of plants will bestow themselves upon many students and faculty members, making for a more positive and effective learning environment.

By taking a step back to the past by mixing plants with urban society, we can move forward to a state of heightened thinking and effective learning.

—Sarah Wassom
Roseville, California

OPINION OUTPOST

The Opinion Outpost features opinions and commentary on the latest hot topics from state and national news sources.

will be necessary to fulfill all the promises that have been made.
—Editorial Board
The Salt Lake Tribune

Sick prison inmates

Social distancing in prisons is nearly impossible. The size of the inmate population in federal prisons exceeds their rated capacity by 12 to 19 percent, according to a report this year from the Justice Department.

No one deserves to die of COVID-19 in prison or jail.

But more than 100 inmates already have, and thousands more could if prisons and elected officials do not take steps to protect the incarcerated now.

Releasing these prisoners during this crisis is not just an act of mercy to protect prisoners'

health, and the health of the prison staff. Fewer sick inmates means less strain on the already burdened prison hospital system.

—Editorial Board
The New York Times

Cost of surviving

This is a time of acute global emergency. Survival is the priority.

And yet, survival comes with a huge monetary cost, at a time when every entity, from the federal government to the average household, already had considerable debt heading into the pandemic. It's not too early to talk about money and how to confront the bills that surely will come.

The economic slowdown

associated with COVID-19 will soon manifest itself in dramatically lower tax collections in both sales and income taxes, which will affect everything from your local school district to your city, county and state governments.

—Editorial Board
Deseret News

Lack of grades

The struggle is real, as any parent of a K-12 kid can attest, but so is the potential for arrested educational development.

The lack of grades will make it harder for parents and principals to identify which kids need remedial help.

Children who study hard won't be rewarded and may even be penalized as they sit through redundant make-up lessons next year.

A pass on grades is really a pass for the schools and teachers.

—Editorial Board
The Wall Street Journal

Homeless services

The task of reducing the high levels of homelessness in Salt Lake County and the rest of Utah has been passed around from one public official to another, from one committee to another and split among multiple service providers.

Progress has been scant and it seems ever more than likely that the whole problem is only going to get worse as long as those responsible keep rearranging the deck chairs and are not willing or able to come up with the steady stream of funding that

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

The Universe encourages students, faculty and BYU staff to add their voice to ours by writing letters to the editor and guest editorials, or by submitting editorial cartoons.

- All letters should be submitted by email to universe.ideas@gmail.com. The topic of the letter should be included in the subject line.
- Letters should also include the author's name, hometown (for students), campus position (for faculty and staff) and phone number. Anonymous letters will

- not be published.
 - Letters should be no more than 250 words and may be edited for length, clarity or style.
 - Guest editorials should be 500 to 700 words and are encouraged from individuals with professional or academic expertise on the topic.
 - Original cartoons are also welcome.
- Opinion editor Spencer McWilliams can be reached at universe.ideas@gmail.com.

BYU football player doubles as music performer

By SYDNEY TOWNSEND

A lot of kids grow up having ambitious dreams — traveling to the moon, being a world-famous singer or becoming a successful athlete. For graduate transfer and wide receiver Batchlor Wise Johnson IV, having just one of these dreams wasn't enough.

Johnson comes from a rich musical heritage. His grandmother Barbara Lynn, an R&B singer in the 1960s, produced chart-toppers like "You'll Lose a Good Thing." As she gained notoriety, Mick Jagger asked if he could produce and record her song, "Oh! Baby (We Got a Good Thing Goin')." Lynn's son, Batchlor Wise Johnson III, eventually entered the music scene as a rapper.

"My dad did the whole rapping thing in the '90s and wanted a bunch of kids to start his own Jackson Five," Johnson said. "My dad had us performing everything, whether it was talent shows, church events, special musical numbers, stuff like that."

Johnson was exposed to big names in the industry because of his family's musical background. Growing up, they would record music at the studio of Mathew Knowles, Beyoncé's father. These experiences allowed Johnson to see the amount of work it takes to make it in music.

While music was a big part of his childhood, Johnson said he also took a great interest in sports at a young age. His dad never pushed sports on him, but when he introduced him to football, Johnson decided he wanted to be great. As a 9-year-old, he would run routes and workout with a weighted vest in their backyard.

He soon became passionate about both music and football. Entertaining and getting people to smile is something he has always loved, and he wanted to find a way to marry both of his interests.

"My goal since I was a kid was to play in the Super Bowl and perform in the



Preston Crawley

Johnson IV smiles during an interview after a 2020 spring football practice.

half-time show," Johnson said.

Johnson worked on his sports craft and came to BYU for two years before transferring to the University of Utah to finish out his undergraduate degree. After his fair share of struggles at Utah, the opportunity arose for him to accept a scholarship for graduate school at BYU. During his time in Provo, he has been able to focus on academics, football and music as he tries to make the most out of all three. Continuing to develop his brand has also been one of his priorities.

Johnson writes all of his own lyrics; it's his way of expressing his individuality. He likes to be a little flashy,

half-time show," Johnson said. Johnson worked on his sports craft and came to BYU for two years before transferring to the University of Utah to finish out his undergraduate degree. After his fair share of struggles at Utah, the opportunity arose for him to accept a scholarship for graduate school at BYU. During his time in Provo, he has been able to focus on academics, football and music as he tries to make the most out of all three. Continuing to develop his brand has also been one of his priorities.

Part of Johnson's persona is promoting good things to inspire those who come across his music. He keeps his lyrics profanity-free and uplifting

while striving to be someone people can look up to.

"If I could have a world tour and the night before have a musical fireside for every city, that's where I feel like I would be at the peak of my life," Johnson said. "Typically, a guy who looks like me isn't LDS, but by the way he lives his life and the way he writes his music, you can see it."

During his time in Provo, Johnson said there are two people who have aided him in achieving these goals. Jourden Skillman and Mitchell Bashford, two "musical geniuses," who use music to express their identities and their brands. With just this little team, they create, write, mix and perfect each song, start to finish, in a townhome. The mic is placed in front of the open closet so the sound doesn't bounce off the walls, Johnson said. In a way, this adds to not only his brand but to Skillman's and Bashford's as well.

Skillman helps create unique ideas and beats for Johnson to then add lyrics.

"Oftentimes, I hear a song or a melody in my head and it's just a matter of translating it into something real," Skillman said. "When I make music with Batchlor, I usually make the beat and everything except for the vocals."

Bashford is junior studying audio engineering with a minor in business and another key player in developing music. He'll create a beat or melody of his own, then send it to Johnson. If he likes it, they'll continue to develop the idea.

"I play the instruments and get the structure of the song," Bashford said. "I'll also mix the song, make it cohesive with the whole thing."

Johnson and his team continue to produce music consistently and showcase it during various performances. He hopes that his relentless attitude shows through his schoolwork, music and athletic endeavors. His goals continue to be ambitious to motivate him. "My eyes have been set on the 2021 Grammys," Johnson said. "That's been my goal for a minute now."

Purdue transfer chooses BYU

By JACKSON PAYNE

The BYU men's basketball program added a sizeable upgrade to its roster with the addition of graduate transfer Matt Haarms, a 7-foot-3-inch center from the Purdue Boilermakers.

"BYU fans are going to love this Matt Haarms," head coach Mark Pope said. "He has an extraordinarily bright future in the game. And most important, he is one of the most intelligent, engaging, self-aware and giving players I have ever met."

Haarms was regarded as one of the most valuable graduate transfers in the nation prior to his commitment with BYU, mulling over offers from historic powerhouses Indiana and Kentucky before accepting the pull from Provo.

Haarms, a native of Amsterdam, Netherlands, has averaged around nine points and five rebounds over 65 games the past two seasons against elite Big Ten conference competition. The "Flying Dutchman" has also proven to be a prolific shot-blocker, swatting a career average of two shots a game for the Boilermakers.

Recruiting top-tier transfer prospects has become second nature for Pope, who added sharpshooting guard Jake Toolson a year ago along with projected 2020 starting BYU point guard Alex Barcello.

Pope, a center during his NBA playing days, now presides over a frontcourt consisting of seven-footer Haarms, 6-foot-11-inch Richard Howard, 6-foot-10-inch Wyatt Lowell, 6-foot-9-inch Gavin Baxter and 6-foot-9-inch Kolby Lee. This Great Wall of Cougar big men could lead to a more inside scoring-based offensive attack this coming year in contrast to the Cougars' NCAA leading three point prowess in 2019-2020.

Team motto turns to life motto for football player

By MITCHEL PHIPPS

BYU football player Austin Chambers was a senior in high school when his teammate Andre Maloney passed away.

Chambers and Maloney were both team captains for the Shawnee Mission West football team in 2012. Chambers said the football team had an offense that ran most of its plays through Maloney. Chambers always knew there was something special about Maloney. "Maloney was a once in a lifetime athlete."

Chambers and Maloney were two consistent faces on the field for the Shawnee Mission West Vikings. As team captains, they played both offense and defense. They shared the same motivational phrase "make it big" to help them pursue their goals of making it to the National Football League someday. In 2012, their junior year, Shawnee Mission West played in the 6A State Championship. They won the state game 19-14 over Hutchinson High School.

Seventeen-year-old Maloney had verbally committed to playing football for the University of Kansas that next fall in 2014—a commitment that would allow him to stay in Kansas and give his mom the ability to be at his games. This was before the tragedy occurred.

On Thursday, Oct. 3, 2014, Maloney was taken off the field by an ambulance in a game against Leavenworth High School. Maloney had become disoriented on the sideline.

The ambulance first rushed Maloney to the Overland Park Regional Medical Center emergency room. He was soon transferred to the Research Medical Center, where the doctors discovered that Maloney had a blood clot in his brain.

After an unsuccessful attempt to remove the clot, the hospital announced the next day that Maloney had passed away.

As time went on, many teammates continued to think of the phrase "make it big" that Chambers, Maloney and other teammates had used. Something that started as a motivational phrase began to be a life motto for some.

"At first it just meant in terms of football, you know. We wanted to make



Austin Chambers

Austin Chambers acknowledges his family before entering the football field. "Make it big" is a motto he memorializes in honor of a former teammate.

it big, we wanted to play in the NFL," Chambers said.

"My senior year, my friend Andre (Maloney) ended up passing away, and that phrase, 'make it big,' kind of took on a new light. I began to realize that life is a lot bigger than football. Make it big, it's something that I try to take into all aspects of my life. I try to make it big and be the best person I can be. Whether that's for my family, whether that's in school, whether that's at work," Chambers said.

The phrase is something that has impacted Chambers greatly, to the extent that he got it tattooed on his bicep in 2017. This tattoo makes "Make it big" a constant reminder that there

is a lot more to life than football.

Maloney's high school friend and Shawnee Mission West student body president Jonathan Shipp was a big supporter of the high school football team. Shipp was often spotted wearing the team colors of gold and black, with his face painted cheering on the team on the front row of the home games.

"Make it big" means live your life the best way possible," Shipp said. Make it big wasn't only a phrase used for the players; it was a phrase that ended up getting passed around and motivating more than just the athletes. Shipp believes Maloney had an impact on and off the field.

Starting center on the state

championship team Tanner Clark had always admired the work ethic of Maloney on the football field.

"He was an electric player that always had the capability to make big plays. He made everyone compete to be their best selves. He never wanted to lose at anything," Clark said.

According to Clark, Maloney was known off the field as a much quieter kid that didn't like a lot of attention. Maloney never wanted to be the highlight of anything, but when it came to football, he was always the highlight.

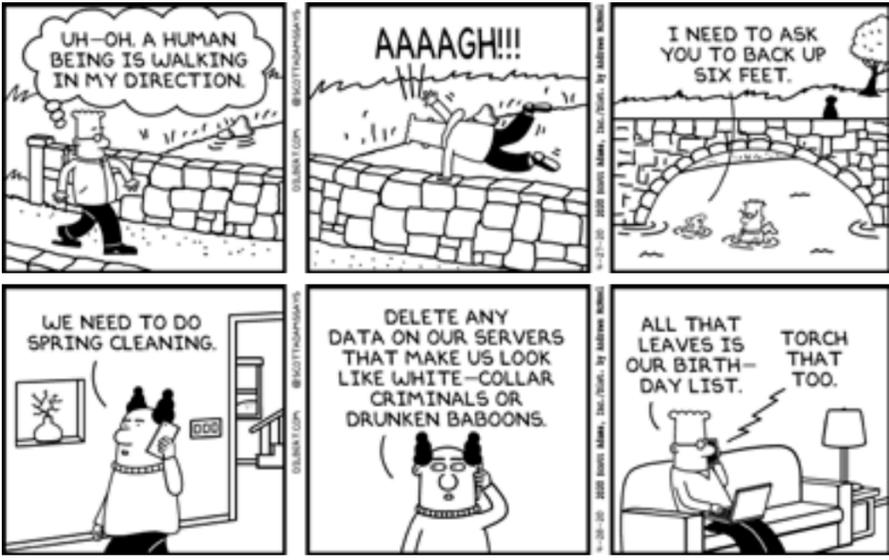
"Make it big means that you have done everything in your power to have a big impact. It means working hard for what you want. Never getting

lazy when things get hard because there is a bigger reward at the end," Clark said.

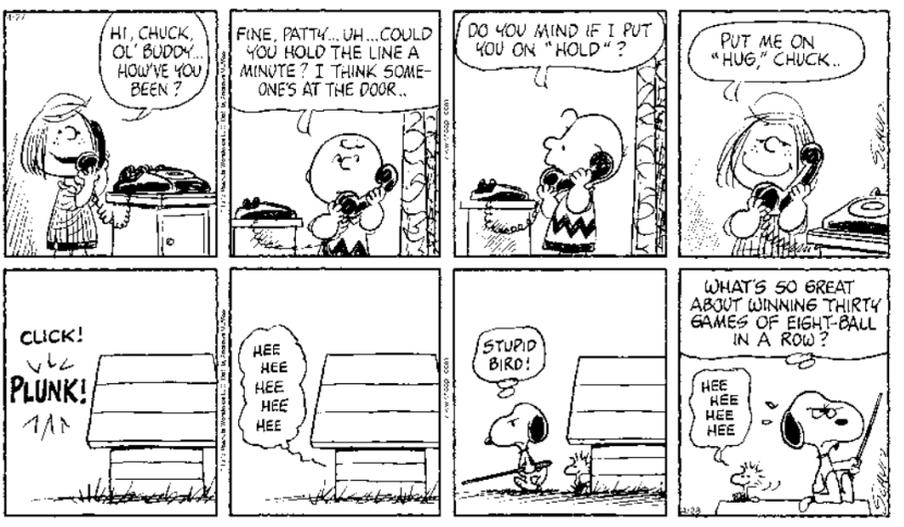
Although Maloney passed away a few years ago, he continues to impact and shape the lives of those who knew him. Chambers credits many of his life accomplishments to the impact Maloney had on him as a friend and teammate, with the motivational phrase of make it big constantly reminding him to be the best student, husband and football player.

Chambers often has "#M.i.B" written on his tape or cleats on game day as a constant reminder to never take a playoff because he knows Maloney would never do that.

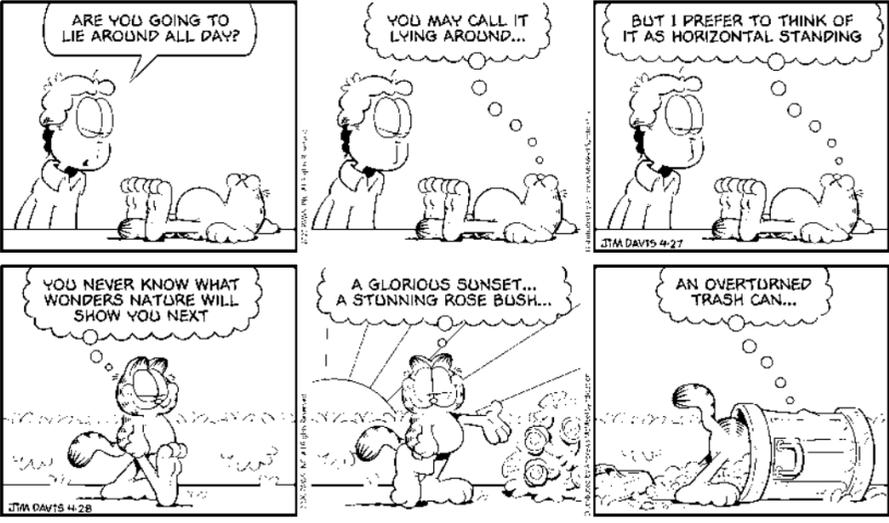
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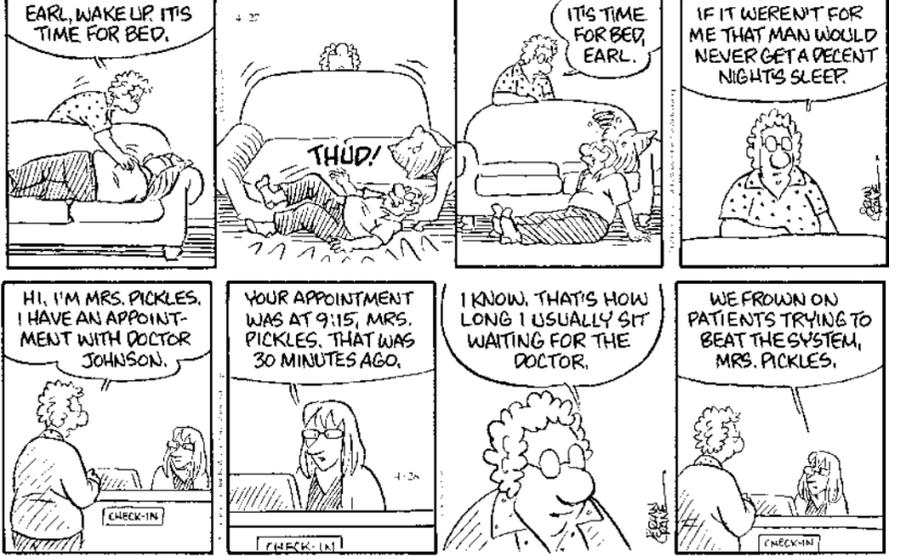
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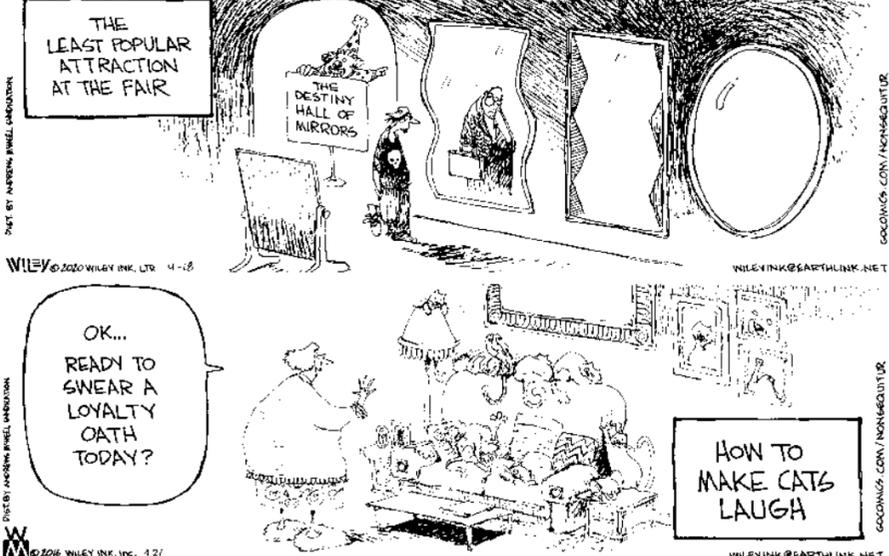
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Sudoku

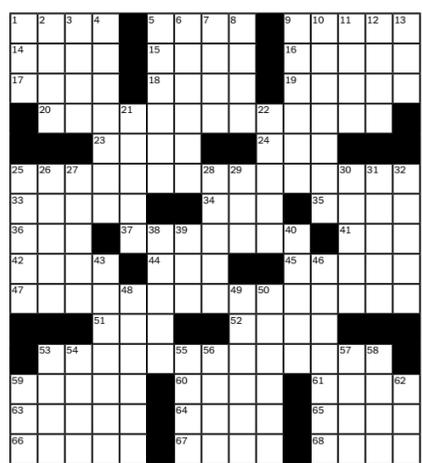
Use the numbers 1-9 once in each row, column and marked grid of 9. Puzzles increase in difficulty from left to right. Solutions are at universe.byu.edu/sudoku.

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The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0323

- ACROSS**
- 1 Run ___ (go wild)
 - 5 Channel for renovators and remodelers
 - 9 Flat-bottomed boat
 - 14 Sleep-inducing pill?
 - 15 Smallest Great Lake by volume
 - 16 Japanese watch brand
 - 17 Website for craftspeople
 - 18 "___ No Mountain High Enough"
 - 19 African animal that charges
 - 20 What a last true believer might believe in
 - 23 Pantry pests
 - 24 "To thine ___ self be true"
 - 25 "Don't clap yet"
 - 33 Get rid of, as pencil marks
 - 34 Took a chair
 - 35 Bogus
 - 36 Georgia's capital; Abbr.
 - 37 Founder of the McDonald's empire
 - 41 Tar Heels' sch.
 - 42 Cuisine featuring drunken noodles
 - 44 Home of Montreal; Abbr.
 - 45 Teeming throng
 - 47 "There was no choice but for me to say yes!"
 - 51 Smog-monitoring org.
 - 52 Medieval worker
 - 53 It "cannot stand" per 1-Down ... or a hint to 20-, 25- and 47-Across
 - 59 Poles or Czechs
- DOWN**
- 1 President Lincoln, informally
 - 2 Closet pest that loves wool
 - 3 Approximately
 - 4 Features of touch-tone phones and A.T.M.s
 - 5 Physical well-being
 - 6 Dolphins Hall-of-Fame QB Bob
 - 7 Metal food containers
 - 8 Docs for dogs
 - 9 Illegible writing
 - 10 Big cheeses
 - 11 Egyptian goddess of life
 - 12 Parking ticket penalty
 - 13 Rock's ___ Fighters
 - 21 Input, as data
 - 22 Acknowledgment as true
 - 60 Dress that ends above the knee
 - 61 Israeli submachine guns
 - 63 [So funny!]
 - 64 Head; Fr.
 - 65 What may descend before the moon?
 - 66 What tree rings represent
 - 67 Put in a plane's overhead compartment, say
 - 68 Ball that might attract a cat



PUZZLE BY ED Sessa

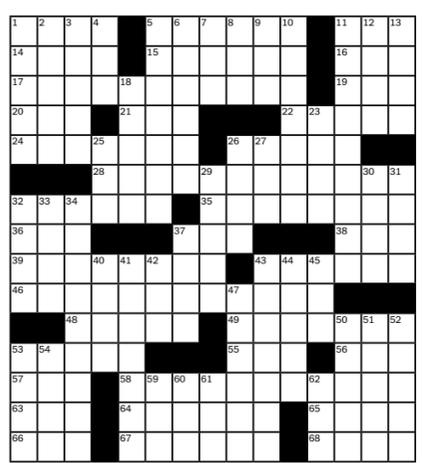
- 25 ___ bar (Hershey toffee confection)
- 26 Lead-in to -dionist
- 27 1980s-'90s NBC legal drama
- 28 Popped the question
- 29 Four, on many a golf hole
- 30 Swahili for "freedom"
- 31 Smooths the surface of, as wood
- 32 Show host
- 38 Light blue shades
- 39 Brynner of stage and screen
- 40 Dear; Fr.
- 43 Freeze, as a pond
- 46 Not on the clock
- 48 Grand works
- 49 Really digs
- 50 Go over again, as notes
- 53 Opposite of aweather, to a sailor
- 54 [So funny!]
- 55 CPR experts
- 56 Insects, berries and worms, for a robin
- 57 Old Testament book next alphabetically after Ezekiel
- 58 Designer Christian
- 59 Where pigs wallow
- 62 Center of the solar system

Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 7,000 past puzzles. nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year). Read about and comment on each puzzle: nytimes.com/wordplay.

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0324

- ACROSS**
- 1 Killer whale
 - 5 Radio noise
 - 11 Dude
 - 14 "Awesome!"
 - 15 City that shares an airport with Seattle
 - 16 Uncooked
 - 17 The sitcom writers met at a ...
 - 19 Point of no return?
 - 20 I.C.U. test, maybe
 - 21 MSNBC host Melber
 - 22 Office or schoolroom furniture
 - 24 Tested, as 26-Across
 - 26 Casual Friday wear
 - 28 The mathematicians met at a ...
 - 32 Expressed exasperation ... or relief
 - 35 Spider-Man, for Peter Parker
 - 36 Suffix with serpent
 - 37 Like some humor
 - 38 Trio in elem. school
 - 39 Neither a believer nor a disbeliever
 - 43 Value highly
 - 46 The pharmacists met at a ...
 - 48 Top-notch
 - 49 "Methinks"
 - 53 "The Bells of St. ___" (Bing Crosby film and song)
 - 55 Telecom of old
 - 56 Sports tiebreakers, for short
 - 57 Shocked reaction, online
 - 58 The Google employees met at a ...
 - 63 Place for a sensory deprivation tank
 - 64 Trying experience
 - 65 Many a TikTok user
 - 66 Recipe amt.
 - 67 Property in buildings and land
 - 68 Designer Jacobs
- DOWN**
- 1 Maids a-milking, e.g.
 - 2 Explorer on Mars
 - 3 Welsh dog breed
 - 4 Ginger ___ (soft drink)
 - 5 Many an anti-inflammatory medication
 - 6 Radio studio session
 - 7 Not just stand there
 - 8 Informal "you," en français
 - 9 "As I would say," in a text
 - 10 Bushnell who wrote "Sex and the City"
 - 11 Garment with a French name
 - 12 Billiards accessory
 - 13 Is shy, in a way
 - 18 Group of officers
 - 23 ___'s act
 - 25 Biblical verb ending
 - 26 Part of the calendar named for Caesar
 - 27 "The Lord of the Rings" tree creature
 - 29 Wacky comedy
 - 40 Lubricated
 - 41 Word with kick or cut
 - 42 Palindromic bird
 - 43 Terrestrial
 - 44 Undercover activity?
 - 45 That special touch, for short
 - 47 Lion or tiger
 - 50 Pyongyang's peninsula
 - 51 River frolicker
 - 52 Boy band with the 2000 hit "Bye Bye Bye"
 - 53 ___ likely to succeed
 - 54 Roadies' equipment
 - 59 Bard's "before"
 - 60 Mathematician Lovelace
 - 61 Seminary subj.
 - 62 Dough dispenser



PUZZLE BY OLIVIA MITRA FRAMKE

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

P	A	W	S		A	G	I	T	A				
A	L	O	E	A	P	E	X	K	U	D	O	S	
S	C	R	A	P	H	E	A	P	C	L	E	R	K
T	A	R	S	I	N	C	A	A	F	A	T	E	
A	N	I	S	E	A	T	T	L	E	S	L	E	W
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P	O	O	H	I	M	P	S	A	M	M			
I	T	M	E	A	N	S	A	L	O	T	O	M	E
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A	H	E	M	G	E	S	S	O					
B	A	T	T	E	R	Y	P	A	C	K	R		
E	C	R	O	L	L	O	G	R	E	S			
S	C	A	R	S	P	A	P	A	L	M	A	S	S
T	R	I	A	L	E	T	A	L	A	C	N	E	
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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

A	W	A	Y		P	A	B	S	T		J	O	J	O		
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How effective is hand sanitizer?



Unsplash

Hand sanitizer is in short supply nationwide during the COVID-19 pandemic, but experts say hand washing for a minimum of 20 seconds is more effective than any hand sanitizer.

By NICK GLEDHILL

Provo resident Aubree Schill was standing in line at the pharmacy when another patron started voicing frustration over the store's lack of hand sanitizer during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"As he kept asking where the hand sanitizer was, the head pharmacist stuck his head out of the window in the store and asked, 'How effective do you think hand sanitizer is against a virus?'" Schill said.

Since that experience at the pharmacy, Schill has wondered, like many others, how effective common hand sanitizer brands are against COVID-19.

"From what I've listened to and read, hand sanitizer only removes bacteria and doesn't really clean your hands very well," Schill said.

Nursing major Claire Bernhisel believes in the effectiveness of hand sanitizer and said she used it all the time during her clinicals at the University of Utah Intensive Care Unit.

"Every time we went in and out of patients' rooms, we had to use hand sanitizer," Bernhisel said.

Much of the misinformation on COVID-19 comes from a lack of research, according to Julianne Grose, a BYU

microbiology professor.

"We just don't have enough good and careful research on COVID-19 yet," said Grose. "You can't even look it up on the internet because there's not a lot of good information."

Despite this lack of research, Grose said the virus is most closely related to the common cold.

"Hand sanitizer should be effective if it's 60% ethanol or 70% isopropyl alcohol," Grose said.

According to Grose, however, this lack of information shouldn't be a problem if people remember that the main thing that will help stop the spread of COVID-19 is washing their hands.

"No one should freak out about hand sanitizers unless they don't work near a faucet and soap," Grose said. "Washing your hands does more to get rid of bacteria than any hand sanitizers will."

However helpful the use of hand sanitizer may be against COVID-19, using hand sanitizer won't replace the effectiveness of regular hand washing for a minimum of 20 seconds, she said.

As Utah Gov. Gary Herbert has said repeatedly during recent press conferences on the importance of appropriate hand washing, 20 seconds is the equivalent of singing "Happy Birthday" twice.

Missionaries struggle with choosing whether to delay their service



By KARINA ANDREW

The First Presidency released new guidelines regarding the future of missionary service after the COVID-19 pandemic in a letter to the Church March 31. Missionaries must decide when to continue their service by April 30.

The First Presidency explained in the letter that they are "making available two opportunities for missionary service for those who have returned and are awaiting reassignment."

Some missionaries who had to return home to the U.S. or Canada as well as missionaries currently undergoing MTC training have the choice to either return to their original assignment or be reassigned as soon as circumstances allow, retaining their original release date; or to delay their return to service for another 12 to 18 months.

Missionary Dallin McRae recently returned home after seven months of service in the Dominican Republic Santiago Mission. It was hard for him, he said, to have his mission experience not match the expectations he'd had since receiving his call.

"It was just so sudden," he said about being sent home. "It was incomprehensible."

McRae said he will most likely delay returning to his mission for a year because he doesn't want to get reassigned before the coronavirus problem has been contained and have to fulfill most of his missionary service remotely.

"I'm kind of readjusting my



Sarah Rogers

Sarah Rogers displays the Washington D.C. flag. Rogers chose to delay her mission for a year. Scan the photo with the **Universe Plus** app to see more stories in the series.



life plans a lot. I think I have to maybe do a year of school before I go back out," he said. "It's hard to make a solid schedule when there's just all this uncertainty right now."

Bryant Israelsen only had three months left of his mission in Kobe, Japan, when he found out he would have to return home without the option to be reassigned. He said he was devastated to learn about the early end to his service.

"The news that I didn't have that much time left in the country I learned to love so much was hard. But learning that within a week I wouldn't even be a missionary anymore felt crushing," he said. "It felt so sudden and so different from what I had planned or expected."

Israelsen said knowing many other missionaries in his mission and around the world are going through the same thing created a helpful sense of unity.

Missionaries who have received an assignment but not reported yet may also choose to complete their MTC training online as scheduled and report to their missions as soon as circumstances allow or to delay their service for 12 to 18 months.

BYU student Sarah Rogers received her mission call in February. She was assigned to the Washington D.C. South Mission and was supposed to report to the Missionary Training Center on May 20. She has chosen to delay her mission, and she said the sudden change in plans is causing her a lot of stress.

"It's hard to move on with life not knowing when I'll get to go out," she said. "I've been slowly going out of a school mindset while preparing to serve the Lord starting May 20, and now I have to shift back into school mode indefinitely. My feet have definitely been swept out from under me, and I'm feeling very anxious and insecure about what comes next."

Matthew Whitaker, who was assigned to the Japan Tokyo North Mission and scheduled to report May 13, said he intends to complete his training as scheduled and begin his mission as soon as conditions allow. He agreed that the uncertainty is unsettling, especially since he doesn't know what the world situation will be after he completes his ten weeks of online training.

"All of a sudden, my house is the MTC — and I have no clue what I'll be doing," he said. "Unfortunately, I wasn't able to go through the temple before they all closed, so there's a lot of uncertainty as to what that means for my missionary service."

Bryant Israelsen's sister, Abby Israelsen, was supposed to report May 27 to the Denmark Copenhagen Mission but has chosen to delay for a year before reporting. She said she felt an immediate love for the Danish people upon receiving her call, and the circumstances delaying her mission have been "the source of so much heartache" for her.

"Though it's not easy, I have found peace in the situation now," she said. "I've learned a little bit more what it truly means to say 'Thy will be done.' If God needed me to feel a little heartache to come closer to Him, it was worth every bit."

Missionaries from places other than the U.S. or Canada will be reassigned to missions in their home countries to continue service as soon as conditions allow.

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